

Examiner did not consider the Reply filed on May 11, 2000 fully responsive to the prior Office Action. In particular, the Examiner stated that the chemical structure of the elected species should be provided, wherein the specific chemical formula substituents are defined either by picture or by expressing the species in terms of the variables of the formula. In particular, the Examiner noted that Applicants did not indicate the relative position of the $(CH_2)_6$ and the R_1 groups on their respective aromatic benzene rings and relative to each other. The Examiner stated that Applicants must identify the fixed positions on each of the two respective aromatic benzene rings for the substituents pictorially indicated as attached to those rings.

Accordingly, Applicants hereby elect the species in which the R_1 linking moiety on the left side of the first monomeric structure is attached to the left side benzene ring para to the hydroxy group attached to that ring, and the $(CH_2)_6$ moiety on the right side of the first monomeric structure is attached to the right side benzene ring para to the hydroxy group attached to that ring. Acknowledgment by the Examiner that in view of the foregoing election Applicants are now in complete compliance with the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

Upon further consideration, the Examiner also identified additional groups of species from among which she required election. In particular, Applicants were requested to elect a species as indicated in Step (b), respectively, of both independent claims 1 and 10 and all corresponding depending claims of the second and/or third, etc. monomeric species identified therein as "one additional series . . . of different monomers."

For the second monomer series, Applicants hereby elect carboxylic acids, and, specifically, succinic acid, having the structure $HOOCCH_2COOH$. Being an aliphatic

January 16, 2001

dicarboxylic acid, there are no aromatic benzene rings in this species for which fixed positions must be identified. For the third monomer series, Applicants hereby elect ethylene oxide. There are also no aromatic benzene rings in this species for which fixed positions must be identified.

The Examiner also identified five other groups of species among which she required election, which she identified as Species A' of claim 18, Species B' of claim 18, Species B' of claim 19, Species C' of claim 19 and Species D' of claims 27 and 28. Turning to Species A' of claim 18, the Examiner required election among amine groups and hydroxyl groups as the polymerizable functional groups of the first monomer series. Applicants hereby elect hydroxyl groups for examination.

For Species B' of claim 18 and Species B' of claim 19, the Examiner required election among carboxylic acids, esters, anhydrides and isocyanates as the polymerizable functional groups of the additional series of monomers. Applicants hereby elect carboxylic acid groups for examination.

For Species C' of claim 19, the Examiner required an election among ethylene oxide, propylene oxide, isopropylene oxide, butylene oxide and isobutylene oxide, as well as an election among random and block copolymers. Applicants hereby elect ethylene oxide block copolymers.

For Species D', the Examiner required election among chemical reactions and cross-linking reaction as the means by which the copolymers are further modified. Applicants hereby elect cross-linking reactions. The Examiner has also requested for cross-linking that Applicants identify what the copolymers are cross-linked with. At page 10, line 4 the present specification does not identify specific cross-linking agents but states, "such . . . features are

Application No.: 09/291,426

January 16, 2001

well-known . . . and require no further explanation." In order to provide a complete response, Applicants hereby identify as the cross-linking agent propylene diamine, a known cross-linking agent for polymers having functional groups known to be reactive with primary amines.

Applicants' response to the various species elections are believed to be complete. In the event the Examiner believed there are species election matters that remain to be resolved, she is requested to telephone the undersigned at (215) 923-4466.

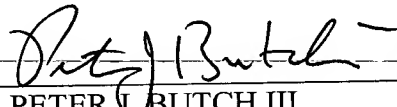
Otherwise, it is believed at the very least the species that have been elected are directed to allowable subject matter. A favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested. If there are any additional charges in connection with this Amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Applicants' Deposit Account No. 19-5425 therefor.

Respectfully submitted,

SYNNESTVEDT & LECHNER LLP

January 16, 2001

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